

REMARKS

Claims 3, 6 through 12, 14, and 15 have been cancelled and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 13 have been amended. New claim 17 replaces claims 8 through 12 with a Markush claim for greater efficiency.

The Examiner's rejections have been studied and considered and are addressed as follows. The Examiner cited Rod U.S. Patent 5,924, 868 and McClenahan et al U.S. Reg. No. H1, 891 generally for an eyepiece having a beam splitter and video unit attached to the eyepiece producing images to a viewing screen. Applicant recognizes that there are individual prior art components to the present invention. Applicant states in the specification that "Such optical beam splitters can be provided in the form of prisms, which are well known in the optical field." See p. 7, line 12. Applicant also recognizes that there are existing electronic means for "converting an incident optical image received from the beam splitter into an electronic image signal." See p. 7, line 20., and even gives specific examples of such devices, "One example of such a device would be a 1/4" super-micro color CCD camera . . ." and that "Such imaging devices are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art." See p. 7, lines 23-30.

What applicant claims as the invention is the entire system or method to accomplish surveilling one or more subjects and viewing the surveilled objects from a remote receiver station, not the individual components, whether or not they are found in the prior art.

As one skilled in the art will recognize, the unique integration of the components or steps to create the entire system or method is what is claimed, not the individual components or steps

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constituting the invention. Stauff et al U.S. Patent 3,798,796 also utilizes some of these components, such as attaching video cameras to optical scopes or other instruments, that are in the prior art. Stauff also cites "systems which include a television camera, a display device or scope, and a video recorder" as elements in the prior art to that patent. Stauff claimed a system for target practice using a television camera instead of an optical viewing device, having a means to control a removable grid on the optical scope with some control over the display of the grid and viewing the targeting image on a remote viewer to evaluate the accuracy of aiming by the user. The present application does not teach a system for aiming on a grid using only a television camera, however it does utilize similar pieces of prior art that Stauff recognized as prior art in his application, such as viewing images from an optical viewer at a remote location using video technology.

The multiple path video imaging system of the present invention uses elements combined in a unique way. Stauff does not teach attaching a removable beam splitter and electronic imaging video camera onto any eyepiece, rather Stauff attaches an actual separate television camera onto a weapon, not onto a precision optical viewer. The Stauff patent will not work for viewing images through a precision rifle scope or stabilized binoculars without changing the image viewed by the user as cited in the present invention. Stauff does not provide for multiple images being uniquely encoded by a camera control unit using a video adder to identify the source of each image at a wireless remote viewing station. Again, as one skilled in the art will recognize and as is cited in the application, certain elements of the present invention may be found in the prior art, but no prior art reference cites the entire sum of the unique system and

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Applicant requests the foregoing amendments be made to the application and the application be passed to issue. In the event the Examiner believes a conference would serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 7, 2002

I certify that the foregoing Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service this 7th day of October, 2002, in an envelope addressed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1 (Amended). A real time, multiple path imaging system, comprising:

[A plurality of independent optical viewing devices, each of said optical devices] an independent optical viewing device having at least one optical viewing path viewed through an eyepiece;

a beam splitter removably attached to said optical viewing device, wherein the beam splitter divides the at least one optical viewing path into a first and a second optical viewing paths; [having a first split beam path continuing the at least one optical viewing path and enabling optical viewing and a second split beam path;]

an electronic video imaging device that receives an optical image from the second split beam path and converts the optical image into an electronic image signal, wherein the video imaging device is removably attached in alignment with the eyepiece without internal modification of the basic optical viewing device and adjustable to accommodate varying sizes of eyepieces; [an electronic video imaging device removably attached to said viewing device, in alignment with said second split beam path;]

a camera control unit coupled to said video imaging device [a video processor coupled to said video imaging device] for creating a real time video signal representing images in said optical viewing path;

a transmitter coupled to the camera control unit for wireless transmission of the real time video signals; [to each of said video processors for wireless transmission of said respective video signal to a remote receiving station, said transmitted video signals being distinguishable

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from one another]

a remote receiver to receive the real time video signal from the transmitter, wherein the receiver can distinguish between a plurality of video signals transmitted from a plurality of camera control units.

2 (Amended). The imaging system of claim 1, [further comprising] wherein:

[an] the eyepiece [terminating] terminates at least one of said at least one optical viewing paths, said beam splitter being aligned with said eyepiece.

4 (Amended). The imaging system of claim 1, wherein:

said video signals are distinguishable from one another by data in an on screen display added to said respective video signals by said [respective video processors.] camera control unit.

5 (Amended). The imaging system of claim 1, wherein:

said video signals are distinguishable from one another by respective transmission carrier frequencies transmitted by said camera control unit.

13 (Amended) The imaging system of claim 1, further comprising:

a viewing screen connected to the receiver and terminating said second split beam path,  
[at least one of said at least one optical viewing paths,] said viewing screen having a viewing surface on which said second split beam path [beam splitter] is substantially centrally disposed.